

...And So Did God

reprints about 200 samples.

Among my favorites are the words of David, age 7: "We must stop the wars and the fights. We need to learn to communicate by using words instead of weapons." Reading those words makes you want to pay more attention to seven-year-olds from now on.

A second example from the book is a "Recipe for Peace," composed by a third-grade class from Massachusetts. Among the ingredients are 1/2 cup of compromise, and 2 tbsp. of honesty. The directions suggest you "mix it all together and make it often. It's all you need for a lifetime of happiness."

A Million Visions of Peace will easily inspire any dedicated group of peace-seekers to create their own art or craft their own words. Perhaps both of these books will instill a sense of hope in the hearts of those who are just as dismayed by what has followed 9/11 as the events of the day itself.

Both books make it clear that striking back will postpone rather than promote peace. They suggest, instead, that what is needed is more and more people, including 7-year-olds, to muster the courage to stick their necks out and cry STOP. By the grace of God, I propose that will make the difference.

Some wisdom from A Million Visions of Peace:

Can we really spread peace in these troubled times? The producers of A Million Visions of Peace have a mathematical formula for it. They suggest that today you share your vision of peace with two people. If they share their vision with two people, and if those four each share their vision with two more people -- and so on, and so on, and so on... it would take only 19 days for one million people to have shared a vision of peace.

If you use the same formula to encourage the spread of peaceful action, then the entire world would be dedicated to peace-making in just 31 days. So spread the word.

What follows is a bit of the wisdom that appears in the book:

"Let us all strive for peace in our own hearts ... then watch it spread like Sunrise over a newly awakened world."

-- Michael, Washington.

"My vision of peace is that I want to be able to walk through the halls and not have to chase my books and pencils around the floor when the eighth graders knock them out of my hand."

"I also wish there had never been war."

-- James, New York.

"My vision for peace is that everybody takes what they need and gives back twice as much."

--Jennifer, Ontario

"Peace is ... running home to my mom."

-- Roy, Michigan.

A Million Visions of Peace: Wisdom from the Friends of Old Turtle, edited by Jennifer Garrison and Andrew Tubesing. Pfeifer-Hamilton. ©1996. ISBN 1-57025-079-0

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